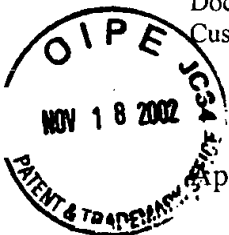


Docket No.: 87361.3300
Customer No. 30734

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Craig CADLWELL, *et al*

Confirmation Number: 4930

Serial No.: 09/900,344

Art Unit: 1723

Filed: July 6, 2001

Examiner: Matthew O. SAVAGE

TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

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For: FLUID FILTRATION ASSEMBLY COMBINING RETURN-SIDE AND
SUPPLY-SIDE FILTERS FOR USE IN A VEHICLE TRANSMISSION

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES
REQUIREMENT UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 17, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in light of the following remarks. In the Office Action, Examiner requested that an election of species be made under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, Examiner requires an election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which that claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are generic to all species. Claims 4 and 10 correspond to (i.e. are generic to) species 1 and 2. Claims 5 and 11 correspond to species 3. Claims 6 and 12 correspond to a species other than species 1-3. Applicant respectfully traverses the election requirement. However, to be fully responsive to the requirement, Applicant hereby elects the following species:

SPECIES	FIGURES	CLAIMS
1	1-4	1-4 and 7-10

Applicant respectfully submits that the examination of the application, as filed, would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. See M.P.E.P. §803. This is particularly so because the Examiner has not provided reasons why the examination of the species would be a serious burden. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the election requirement be withdrawn and that all claimed species be examined in this application. If Examiner chooses to maintain the election requirement, however, Applicant expects Examiner, if the elected species is found allowable, to continue to examine the full scope of the elected subject matter to the extent necessary to the patentability thereof, i.e. extending the search to a reasonable number of non-elected species, as is the duty according to M.P.E.P. § 803 and 35 U.S.C. §121.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1555 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action.

In the event this paper is not timely received or a further extension is required, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any additional fees may be charged to or overpayment credited to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: NOVEMBER 18, 2002
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